

Now imagine a trailway in your community. This brochure tells you how to start the process, details the extensive benefits of the system and shows you the impacts existing trailways are having in towns like yours all around Michigan.

But trailways are more than just a way to get from place to place. Open to many modes of travel, they take you through the entire range of Michigan environments including forests, wetlands, river and lake shorelines, farmlands, shopping areas, residential areas and even industrial areas.

So why build this network of trails? Across Michigan and nationwide, enthusiasm for trailways is growing. Trailways are becoming more popular in part because they are different from other recreation opportunities. A trailway takes you somewhere.

The 1993 Michigan Trailways legislation calls for a statewide system of land corridors passing through Michigan's communities and countryside, featuring broad, smooth-surfaced trails perfect for many activities and accessible to everyone. Trailways follow inactive railroad lines, shorelines and other corridors. Linking together wherever possible, the statewide network of trailways will connect our communities, parks, public lands and natural resources. This network has potential to encompass hundreds of miles of trailways, creating a web of activity that stretches from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan, from our southernmost counties to the Mackinac Straits and across the Upper Peninsula.

Sound good? It's called the Michigan Trailway System. And it's becoming a reality.

The 1993 Michigan Trailways legislation calls for a statewide system of land corridors passing through Michigan's communities and countryside, featuring broad, smooth-surfaced trails perfect for many activities and accessible to everyone. Trailways follow inactive railroad lines, shorelines and other corridors. Linking together wherever possible, the statewide network of trailways will connect our communities, parks, public lands and natural resources. This network has potential to encompass hundreds of miles of trailways, creating a web of activity that stretches from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan, from our southernmost counties to the Mackinac Straits and across the Upper Peninsula.

Imagine starting from home and, within a few blocks, getting on a trail system that stretches hundreds of miles across Michigan, taking you as far as you want to go. Imagine this trail system passing through your community, bringing not only healthful recreation but also bolstering the local economy as trail patrons stop to eat in your restaurants, purchase items at your shops or visit other local attractions. Imagine a ribbon of green where trees tower, wildflowers bloom and wildlife flourishes. Imagine the children of your community having a safe place to bike, walk or rollerblade, surrounded by the natural resources they learn about in school.

Imagine...



Where Can a Michigan Trailway Take YOU?

This vision of a trailway network truly is a collaborative effort. Passage of the trailways legislation was supported by a broad coalition of agencies and organizations. Now, dozens of "trailmakers"—agencies, organizations, communities and citizen groups across Michigan—are working to make the vision a reality. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is coordinating this effort. The legislation empowers the Natural Resources Commission to formally designate a trail as a "Michigan Trailway."

Benefits of Michigan Trailway designation

- This designation offers a number of benefits to trail users, trail managers and the community.
- The state and its cooperators will promote and publicize the trailway as part of the system. The increased use, particularly by nonresidents, will encourage visitation to the communities along the trail, bringing in new dollars to bolster the local economy.
- The Michigan Trailway "seal of approval" will mean the public can be confident the trailway meets appropriate design standards, with all trails having similar benefits and features.
- Michigan residents will become more aware of the exciting opportunities this system offers for enjoyable, healthful recreation, and for an alternative transportation network.
- Financial assistance from the Michigan Trailways Fund may be available for development and management of the trail.
- As the Michigan Trailway system expands and becomes more widely known, Michigan's image as a destination state for quality outdoor recreation will improve, drawing more visitors who will benefit our state's tourism economy.



Features of a Michigan Trailway

- In order to be designated a Michigan Trailway, a trail must be:
- Multi-use and accessible to people with disabilities.
- Designed with a smooth, firm and stable surface to accommodate most recreation traffic.
- Designed with infrequent intersections with streets, roads and driveways.
- Capable of attracting a substantial share of users from beyond the local area.
- Responsive (through managing entities) to concerns of adjacent landowners.

A Michigan Trailway in your community

The features and benefits listed above set Michigan Trailways apart from other trails and paths. They are the guarantees, the markers of quality. But perhaps most exciting is their unlimited potential for year-round recreation. Often surrounded by attractive natural areas, they are great places for the people of your community to bicycle, walk, run, hike, ski and ride horses. Although access often is located near population centers, trailways usually are quiet, removed from motor vehicle traffic and noise.

Those that run near streams or lakes may offer opportunities to fish, canoe or swim. Some trailways accommodate picnicking and other non-trail activities and some, especially those in rural areas, offer opportunities to snowmobilers.

Trailways have non-recreation benefits, as well. Many protect scenic beauty, natural communities and habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Others help wildlife move through urban or agricultural areas. This creates opportunities for nature study and environmental education. In this age of urban sprawl, the creation of trailways helps preserve precious plant and animal habitat and keeps nature close by.

Some trailways also preserve historic resources such as railroad depots and bridges, which encourages historical interpretation and appreciation. Others serve as non-motorized transportation routes within and between communities, thereby reducing automobile use.



How to start the designation process



If your public agency would like its trail to be considered for Michigan Trailway designation, call the DNR at 517-373-9900. The state trails coordinator or a representative will contact your agency to discuss the designation process, request more information and arrange a field review. After this evaluation, a public meeting will be held in your area to invite citizen input. Recommendation for designation then is submitted to the Natural Resources Commission.

Trails under development can be considered for designation, if a master plan or other documentation that provides a basis for evaluation is presented for review.

Trailway Partnerships



Nearly every major trailway in Michigan has come about through partnerships among many "trailmakers", including local units of government, the state, other agencies, user groups, community organizations, businesses, foundations and dedicated

individuals. The DNR can advise active or prospective trailmakers on trailmaking strategies involving the federal rail abandonment process, trail funding, forming trailway management councils and other matters.

Today more trailmakers are trying to link individual trails to create "mega-trails" and form a true statewide trailway network. The four regional cases accompanying the map exemplify these efforts.

The DNR urges trailmakers to work with us to ensure their trail will qualify for Michigan Trailway designation.

Status of the Michigan Trailway Network

Some key links in the trailway system already are in place or are under development:

- Two state park trailways virtually are complete: the 34-mile Kal-Haven Trail in Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties and the 21-mile Hart-Montague Trail in Oceana and Muskegon counties. The Natural Resources Commission has declared these trails the first designated Michigan Trailways.
- Other major DNR, partnership and local trailways are completed, under development or planned. Some of these are under consideration for Michigan Trailway designation. See the map and table for details about Michigan's progress in creating the trailway system.

For more information' including a free copy of our video' contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Bureau at 517-373-9900 or visit the DNR Web site at www.michigandnr.com.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURAL RESOURCE USERS
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both State and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528; Michigan Department of Civil Rights, State of Michigan Plaza Building, 1200 6th Street, Detroit, MI 48226; or the Office For Diversity and Civil Rights, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats.

Networking Michigan With Trailways



www.michigandnr.com

PRINTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
TOTAL COPIES PRINTED: 30,000
TOTAL COST: \$5,373.98 COST PER COPY: \$0.179

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION BUREAU
PO BOX 30257
LANSING, MI 48909-7757

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING MI
PERMIT NO. 1200

Michigan Trailway Opportunities

NAME OF TRAIL	(PROPOSED) MANAGER	PARTICIPATING LOCAL ORGANIZATION	MILES	
			TOTAL	SURFACED

TRAILWAYS COMPLETED OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT

1. Bay City area trailway system	Local government, DNR	Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative	21	14
2. Bay View-Oden	DNR, local gov.	Top of Michigan Trails Council	9	1
3. Betsie Valley Trail	Betsie Val. Trlwy Mgmt Council, DNR	Friends of Betsie Valley Trail	21	1*
4. Bridge-to-Bay Trail	Local governments in St. Clair County		54	20*
5. Charlevoix-Petoskey Trail	Local governments	Top of Michigan Trails Council	17	8*
6. Downriver Greenway	Local governments in Wayne County	Downriver Community Conference	30	21
7. Fred Meijer Heartland Trail	Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail	Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail	33	13
8. Hart-Montague Trail State Park	DNR	Oceana-Muskegon Trailways Commission	21	21
9. Huron Valley Trail Phase I	W. Oakland Trlwy Mgmt Council		11	10
10. Ionia-Lyons Trail	City of Ionia, DNR		6	4
11. Island Lake State Rec. Area Trail	DNR		4	4
12. Jackson Intercity Bike Trail	City of Jackson	Jackson Recreational Trails Coalition	3	2
13. Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway	Local governments, DNR	Friends of K'zoo River Valley Trailway	30	2*
14. Kal-Haven Trail State Park	DNR	Friends of Kal-Haven Trail	34	34
15. Kensington Metropark trails	Huron-Clinton Metro Authority		8	8
16. Kent Trails	Kent County		9	9
17. Lakelands Trail State Park	DNR		31	12*
18. Lansing River Trail/MSU	City of Lansing, MSU		12	8
19. Leelanau Trail	Leelanau Trails Association	Traverse Area Recreation & Transp. Trails	15	5
20. Mackinac Island--perimeter road	Mackinac Island State Park & city		8	8
21. Mackinaw-Cheboygan Trail	DNR, (local gov.)	Top of Michigan Trails Council	16	3
22. Macomb County Bike/Hike Path	Local government & agencies		5	5
23. Montague-Berry Junction Trail	Local government, DNR		14	1
24. Muskegon Lakeshore Trail	City of Muskegon		16	6*
25. Musketawa Trail	Ottawa County, DNR, others	Friends of Musketawa Trail	26	26
26. Paint Creek Trail	Paint Creek Trailways Commission	Paint Creek Trailways Commission	10	10
27. Paul Henry Thornapple Trail	Private org., local government	Thornapple Trail Association	26	11
28. Pere Marquette Rail-Trail of Mid-Mi	Isabella Co., County & City of Midland	Friends of Pere Marquette Rail-Trail	29	29
29. Pere Marquette State Trail	DNR, local gov.	Reed City Crossroads Trail Comte., others	56	8*
30. Polly Ann Trail--Oakland County	Polly Ann Trailway Mgmt Council, DNR		12	0*
31. Portland Riverwalk	City of Portland		4	4
32. Riverside, Oxford, Plaster Cr., others	City of Grand Rapids		12	4*
33. Saginaw Valley Rail-Trail	Saginaw County		10	1*
34. Traverse Area Recreational Trail	City of Traverse City	Traverse Area Recreation & Transp. Trails	8	8
35. Van Buren Trail State Park	DNR		15	0*
36. Wadhams-Avoca Trail	St. Clair County		10	1
37. West Bloomfield Rail-Trail	West Bloomfield Twp.		4	4
38. White Pine Trail State Park	DNR	Friends of the White Pine Trail, others	93	22*

Miles of Trailway Completed or Under Development 743 348

PRESERVED CORRIDORS WITH GREAT TRAILWAY POTENTIAL

39. Alpena-Hillman	DNR, (local gov.)	Alpena Snowmobile Association	20
40. Bill Nicholls Trail	DNR, (local gov.)		55
41. Cheboygan-Gaylord	DNR, (local gov.)	Top of Michigan Trails Council	47
42. Cheboygan-Hawks	DNR, (local gov.)	Top of Michigan Trails Council	44
43. Clinton River Trail	Four Oakland County cities	Friends of Clinton River Trail	17
44. Hancock-Calumet Trail	DNR, (local gov.)		17
45. Mackinaw-Alanson	DNR, (local gov.)	Top of Michigan Trails Council	23
46. Macomb Orchard Trail	Macomb County, other local gov.	Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail	24
47. Manistee-Traverse (segments)	DNR, (local gov.)		24
48. Muskegon-Musketawa link	(City of Muskegon), DNR	Friends of Musketawa Trail	4
49. Polly Ann Trail--Lapeer County	Lapeer County, DNR	Friends of Polly-Ann Trail of Lapeer Co.	20
50. Sault Ste. Marie-Soo Junction	DNR, US Forest Service, (local gov.)		32
51. Thompsonville-Viaduct Road	DNR, (local gov.)		10

Miles of Preserved Corridor with Great Trailway Potential 337

CORRIDOR ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

52. Bay City-Zilwaukee	(Local government)	Bay Area Community Foundation	6
53. Chassell-Lake Linden	(DNR)		18
54. Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee	(Local government)	Friends of Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Tr.	41
55. Falling Waters Trail	(Jackson County, DNR)	Friends of Falling Waters Trail	13
56. Hawks to Alpena & Rogers City	(DNR)	Alpena Snowmobile Association	38
57. Marquette-Munising	(DNR)		37
58. Oden-Alanson	(DNR)	Top of Michigan Trails Council	2
59. Pere Marquette Trail--Clare Segment	(City of Clare)	Clare Area Rail-Trail Committee	3

Miles of Corridor Acquisition Opportunity 158

CORRIDORS AND TRAILWAYS UNDER CONSIDERATION (not on map)

Blossomland River Trail	(Local governments in Berrien County)	Blossomland River Trail Association	33
Oakland County trailway links	(Local government, DNR)	Various	20
Trolley Line Trail (Genesee/Saginaw Co.)	(Local government)		20

Miles Under Consideration 73

Grand Total Mileage: 1311 TOTAL 348 SURFACED

*Funding secured for more surfacing



The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has supported, or is supporting, the acquisition and/or development of several of the proposed trailways listed above. The Trust Fund receives revenue from development of State-owned oil, gas, and mineral resources.



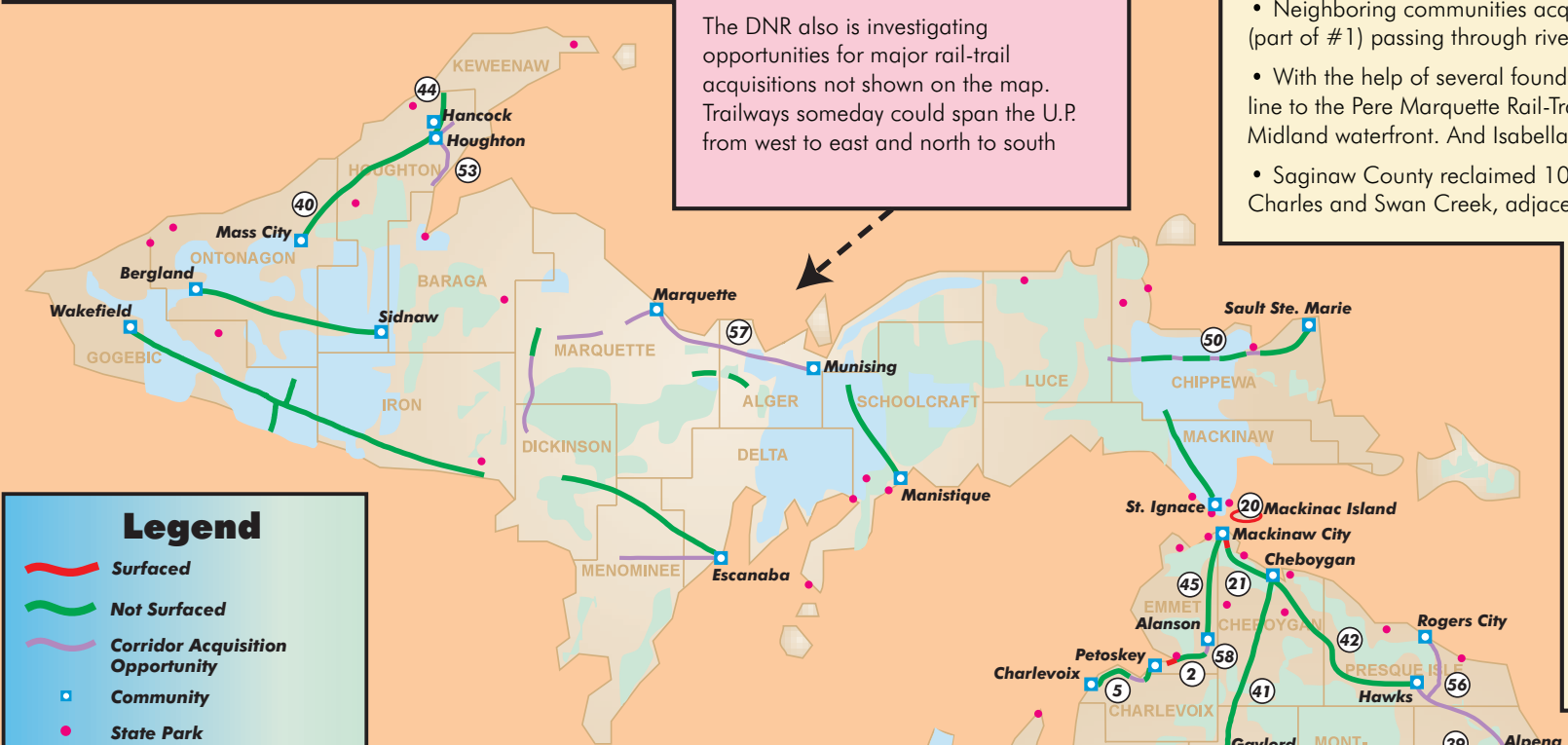
REGIONAL VISION:

Networking the Upper Peninsula

It's a common belief that converting old railroad lines to trails is a fairly recent phenomenon in Michigan. But the DNR began acquiring railroad lines in the Upper Peninsula for trail use more than 30 years ago. These early acquisitions helped expand the snowmobile trail system. Today the U.P. boasts nearly 400 miles of rail trails for snowmobiles and off-road vehicles, and most trails also are open to non-motorized use.

Trail improvements have been limited. Most of the rail trails, as well and many other U.P. trails, could be improved to trailway standards and thus accommodate a wider range of uses. The DNR welcomes local proposals to explore developing U.P. trailways to their full potential. The map below shows all major rail trails in the U.P., both existing and proposed. Those with outstanding trailway potential are numbered and included in the table.

The DNR also is investigating opportunities for major rail-trail acquisitions not shown on the map. Trailways someday could span the U.P. from west to east and north to south



REGIONAL VISION:

Networking West Central Michigan

West central lower Michigan is a hotbed of trailway activity and potential. The DNR and local agencies have acquired several major rail-trail corridors, and many local agencies are pursuing other types of trailway corridors and linkages. Several visionary groups and individuals, recognizing there is strength in numbers, banded together to form the West Michigan Trails/Greenways Coalition. With the leadership of

Timberland Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, the coalition is promoting and coordinating trailmaking, trail linkages and greenway preservation throughout the region. Because of its remarkable success at raising funds, especially from foundations, the coalition recently was able to hire a full-time coordinator to spearhead its efforts.

Grand Rapids has emerged as the hub of the west Michigan trailway network. Efforts are underway to extend several regional trailways to the city center. Imagine a downtown trailhead at the junction of these trails, from which cyclists, runners, hikers, in-line skaters and wheelchair users could strike out in any one of several directions and travel a trailway network for more than 300 miles. This is the exciting vision of the coalition, the city, Kent County, and other far-thinking west Michigan trailmakers.



REGIONAL VISION:

Networking the Saginaw Bay Region

Over the past 20 years, several trailmakers in the Saginaw Bay region have created local trailways and greenways, most of which capitalize on the region's vast water resources. For example:

- Along the bay, the DNR utilized inactive railroad line and other routes to create a four-mile nature/biking trail (part of #1) in the Bay City State Recreation Area.
- Saginaw and Bay City recognized that reclaiming their neglected Saginaw River waterfronts could help revitalize their communities. Since then they have created an outstanding system of trailways, green spaces, boardwalks, bridges, water parks and other amenities that have transformed much of the course of their riverfronts into regional greenway and waterway attractions.
- Neighboring communities acquired inactive rail segments and worked with Bay City to develop a 10-mile loop trail (part of #1) passing through riverfront green space, urban neighborhoods and the countryside.
- With the help of several foundations and State agencies, the city and county of Midland converted an inactive rail line to the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail of Mid-Michigan (#28), extending over 20 miles northwest from the downtown Midland waterfront. And Isabella County recently completed its eight-mile portion of the trail to the outskirts of Clare.
- Saginaw County reclaimed 10 miles of inactive railroad line to create the Saginaw Valley Trail (#33) between St. Charles and Swan Creek, adjacent to the Shiawassee River State Game Area.

As these and other efforts moved forward, the vision of a regional greenway/trailway network emerged. The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative (WIN) recognized that implementing this vision could help greatly to preserve and reclaim the region's waterways and green infrastructure as well as enhance the region's quality of life and economy. So WIN leaders formed the Saginaw Bay Greenways Collaborative to spearhead a major effort. Now, through the hard work of many dedicated citizens, a 40-mile regional trailway from St. Charles through Saginaw and Bay City to the bay is within reach. Another key vision is the Trolley Line Trail, which would extend nearly 20 miles from Bridgeport to Mount Morris, and eventually could link on the north to the planned 40-mile trail and on the south to Flint. Ultimately, the collaborative envisions a 22-county "greenway network that connects our communities to the area's natural and cultural amenities for the recreation, transportation, education and health benefits of its citizens." Like all regional railway efforts, transforming this vision into reality requires teamwork among players too numerous to list here, as well as local leadership to foster that teamwork. With both ingredients in place, the Saginaw Bay Greenways vision is well on its way to realization.



REGIONAL VISION:

Networking Southern Michigan

The Michigan Airline Railway once spanned southern lower Michigan from shore to shore. Today, dozens of trailmakers are stitching together segments of this railroad line and other routes between Concord, in southwest Jackson County, and Richmond, near Lake St. Clair. Through their combined efforts, the potential has emerged for a continuous 140-mile trailway linking some of Michigan's most populous areas, within easy cycling distance of several million Michiganders.

This "mega-trail" would include several trailways identified at left and other connecting segments. Some trailmakers already have completed their trails; others have only begun to explore the possibilities.

Communities in Oakland and Macomb counties recently took some huge steps toward establishing the eastern part of the mega-trail. They have acquired, or have committed to acquire, more than 40 miles of the former Airline Railway through some of Michigan's fastest-growing communities. This right-of-way and connecting segments will become the Clinton River Trail (#43) and Macomb Orchard Trail (#46). Crucial to this achievement were the tireless efforts of citizen-created "friends of the trail" groups in both counties; the purchase of several rail corridor segments by the Trust for Public Land, which will preserve them until local agencies can secure funding; technical assistance from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and DNR; and the cooperative spirit of the Canadian National Railway. Also, three funders--the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the GreenWays Initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan--have provided critical acquisition financing.

A continuous Michigan Airline Trail might not be completed for decades--if ever. But trailmakers have

already preserved right of way for a large share of its potential mileage. And links with other trailways are in place or planned, especially in southeast Michigan. Most recently, far-thinking trailmakers have suggested continuing the mega-trail west to join the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway and the Kal-Haven Trail, thus creating a shore-to-shore super mega-trail across southern Michigan.

